

**OFF TO THE FRONT.**  
**16th REINFORCEMENTS**  
ASHBURTON QUOTA ENTERTAINED

The Ashburton quota, numbering 41 men, for the Sixteenth Reinforcements, together with a large number of relatives and friends, were entertained at the Drill Hall yesterday afternoon by Mr W. Nosworthy, M.P., and Mrs Nosworthy, prior to entraining en route for camp. His Worship the Mayor (Mr R. Galbraith) presided.

In addressing the men, Mr Nosworthy stated that they had heard a great deal regarding the good qualities of the men who had already gone to the front, and he felt sure that those men who were now leaving would do their share to uphold the honour of their country. The New Zealand soldiers had covered themselves with undying glory. In no previous records of military history could they find greater exploits than those of the New Zealanders and Australians at Anzac. The soldiers from the dominions had fully proved that they were able to render efficient service in fighting for King and Country. He hoped that at no great distant date he would have the pleasure of seeing everyone of those who were now going away returning to New Zealand. The new experience that they would have to undergo would no doubt prove a great benefit to them in after life. He was also pleased to see that the relations of those men going to the front were present at the function. He was not going to make a long address, for it might be necessary for him to conserve his breath for the session of Parliament next week, when a Compulsion or National Service Bill would be introduced, and it might then be necessary for him to do a great deal of talking. He also took the opportunity of thanking all those ladies and friends who had assisted Mrs Nosworthy and himself to entertain the men, and to make the function a success. Several ladies had come in from the country to wait on the tables.

The Rev. H. N. Wright stated that he was very pleased to be privileged to address the men who were going away to make ready to fight. The hearts of New Zealanders were filled with pride at the fact that New Zealanders were not found wanting to go forth to fight at the call of their country. He assured them that they were not going to a picnic, but to the real thing. Some people were inclined to get despondent at the war news just now. We did not seem to be making much progress, but it was only natural to expect reverses. Those reverses would only encourage us to support the mother lion and play the game. When one thought of the honours gained by the Dominions, it made one feel proud to belong to the British Empire; and more especially when taken into consideration the way in which the Dominions had responded to the call. There was a good deal of talk of conscription at present, but personally he was against it. However, he would go this far and do as they did in the time of Nelson, and in the days of the press

gangs. He would approve of a press gang going on to a racecourse and bringing into active service the single and able-bodied men found there. He then wished the men good-bye, and hoped they would come back heroes.

The Mayor explained that those present were indebted to Mr and Mrs Nosworthy for the excellent entertainment, and he thanked the hosts on behalf of those present. On behalf of the town and country he thanked the lads who had offered their services. He assured them that while they were away those who could not go would do their share so that the soldiers would not want for anything when they came back. If they had any occasion to want it would be their own fault, as the committee would be only too willing to help soldiers who made application for assistance. With that object in view cards had been given to each departing man to fill in his name and address and any other confidential information for the benefit of the Sick and Wounded Soldiers' Committee. At the invitation of the speaker cheers were then given for the recruits and Mr and Mrs Nosworthy.

The gathering terminated by the singing of the National Anthem.

The men were then allowed a brief interval to enjoy a cigarette and have a final word with their friends before the whistle sounded to fall in. Headed by the Citizens Defence Corps and Salvation Army bands, the men then marched to the station, and were warmly cheered as they passed through the town. A large crowd had assembled on the station platform, and as the train steamed out there was considerable cheering.

The names of the men who left were: —

H. Alpine	D. J. McDonald
W. J. Burgess	D. McMillan
N. G. Bird	J. D. McClure
A. G. Burt	H. L. Mangin
J. Brown	W. G. Mayson
E. M. Brownston	W. R. Meyenburg
J. Bishop	C. J. S. Moore
M. Carey	C. Newlove
C. Child	S. W. T. Rogers
A. Cockburn	T. A. Richards
C. H. Cook	P. H. Reid
W. G. Copeland	<b>J. Scott</b>
D. H. Clements	A. Button
F. Forsyth	W. D. Slather
T. R. Greenaway	L. J. Stevens
G. Hill	W. Vagie
N. D. Harrison	H. L. Williams
J. B. Hyllier	H. J. Wilson
J. G. Hart	C. C. W. Woolley
P. McPherson	J. H. Weaver
R. J. McKenzie	

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**CALL FOR MEN.  
THE SIXTEENTHS.  
CANTERBURY AREA  
DEPARTURE FOR TRAINING CAMPS.**

**ASHBURTON.**

The largest gathering yet seen in the Ashburton Drillshed since the outbreak of war took place yesterday afternoon, when Mr W. Nosworthy, M.P., and Mrs Nosworthy hospitably entertained the recruits who were leaving to join the Sixteenth Reinforcements. In addition to the recruits there were a number of returned wounded soldiers, a Crimean veteran and several other veteran soldiers, and many parents and other friends, the large drillshed being quite filled. The Mayor (Mr R. Galbraith) presided.

After high tea had been served Mr Nosworthy in a brief address cordially thanked the recruits for voluntarily offering their services. He also exposed himself in favour of conscription if necessary to get sufficient men to gain a victory for the Allies.

The Rev H. Nelson Wright also delivered a brief patriotic speech, in which he said he had always been opposed to conscription, but he was in favour of pressing eligible men into the service if necessary.

The Mayor said he wished to assure those who were going and those who had returned that they need not hesitate to ask for assistance for themselves or their dependents if necessary, as there were plenty of funds available for that purpose. The men then marched to the railway station headed by the Citizens' Defence and the Salvation Army Bands. At the railway station there was a very large gathering and the men were cheered again and again on the arrival of the train and also on its departure.

Following is a list of the men who answered the roll call at the drillshed:

....., James Scott, .....

After the departure of the train Mr and Mrs Nosworthy entertained in the drillshed the Senior Cadets, the trumpet band and other bandsmen and numerous visitors.